

# Memorandum

Date : May 7, 2001

To : Management Agencies

Project Agencies

From : Department of Water Resources

Subject : **Fish Action #4: February 1 through February 5, 2001**

## Description of Action

High Knights Landing Catch Index values from January 28 through January 30 (18.7 on January 29) indicated a substantial number of juvenile salmon (spring-run yearlings and winter-run young-of-the-year) migrating downstream into the Delta. Sacramento area sampling confirmed this movement. The sharp decline in Knights Landing Catch since January 30 suggest the peak in migration has subsided. Historical information indicates high densities and losses of these fish at the CVP/SWP diversions can be expected during the next week given the receding hydrograph and planned export pumping of about 10,500 cfs.

To reduce the adverse impact to these migrating juvenile salmon, the Management Agencies have requested a five-day reduction in combined CVP/SWP exports to 8,000 cfs from February 1 through February 5. This action also will reduce the entrainment of steelhead and improve the survival of yearling juvenile salmon in the Delta.

On February 1, 2001 the Data Assessment Team (DAT), with representatives from the Management and Project Agencies participating, discussed current conditions and the proposed action. The CALFED Operations Group Juvenile Salmon Protection Plan has been applied through January 31. The Delta Cross Channel Gates are closed until May 20 per D-1641. The E/I ratio is at 45% and inflows are decreasing. Combined exports were at 6,000 cfs through January 31 to protect salmon and steelhead. Biologists are working on a similar guidance document for the rest of the winter and spring salmonid emigration season. The current Plan would indicate exports be reduced to approximately 6,000 cfs based on the high catch index at Knights Landing in recent days. In recommending exports be limited to 8,000 cfs instead of 6,000 cfs, EWA managers are balancing the need to provide some fish protection now and the need to budget EWA assets to address situations expected to arise later in the season.

Estimated Cost Of Action

The Department of Water Resources has estimated that these actions could reduce State Water Project (SWP) exports by approximately 20 TAF. The estimate assumes SWP exports would continue at a level of approximately 7,000 cfs in the base operation. The actual amount could be either more or less dependent upon the E/I ratio or the net Delta outflow. DWR has not performed a cost analysis of the change in operations.

Method Of Accounting For Costs

DWR will provide to the Management Agencies an accounting of the actual water, energy, storage and conveyance costs. The water cost analysis will be provided within thirty days of completing the action and will include a comparison between the actual operation (with the fish action) and a base operation (based upon planned exports). All other costs will be submitted thirty days upon completion of the recovery actions. Disagreements regarding the analysis are to be discussed within the B2/EWA Interagency Team. Disputes will be reviewed by the Ops Group and elevated to the Water Operations Management Team for final resolution.

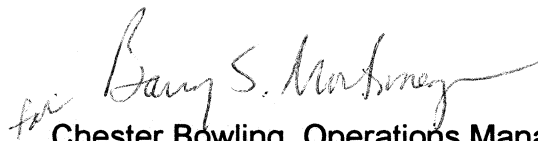
B(2)/EWA Assets

The Management Agencies have concluded that this may be an EWA action. Therefore, EWA assets may be applied to the export reductions of the SWP. The proposed fish action is not to impact the baseline delivery capability of the SWP. Therefore, DWR is to make operations and water allocation decisions based upon the base operations plan, absent the fish action.

There are adequate EWA assets available to cover this February fish action. The amount of water and the time it becomes available will be determined when DWR submits the final water cost analysis to the Management Agencies.



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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services – Michael Thabault  
National Marine Fisheries Services – Michael Aceituno